Legislation to protect HIV/AIDS victims

3161. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to bring a legislation to protect the rights of HIV/AIDS victims;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed legislation;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce the legislation during the current session of Parliament; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) The National AIDS Prevention and Control Policy states that the Government will strengthen anti-discrimination and other protective laws that protect vulnerable groups, people living with HIV/AIDS and people with disabilities from discrimination in both the private and public sectors. Deliberations with the diverse stakeholders are under way to develop a framework for comprehensive legislation to protect the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Grant-in-aid for development of State Drug Testing Laboratory for ISM in Karnataka

3162. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sanctioned grant-in-aid during 2001-2002 for the development of State Drug Testing Laboratory for Indian Systems of Medicine in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned therefor;

(c) whether the Karnataka Government has sought for the release of additional grant-in-aid for the purchase of laboratory equipment, etc.;

(d) if so, the additional amount sought for; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Grant-in-aid of Rs. 57.88 lakhs was sanctioned.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Additional grant of Rs. 62.58 lakhs has been requested by the Government of Karnataka.

(e) As the Laboratory had applied for grant in aid of Rs. 57.88 lakhs which was approved and released, second application for grant of Rs. 62.58 lakhs was not approved.

TB Control Report Card

3163. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that according to recent studies by different international organisations' estimate, over 4,00,000 Indians might die from Tuberculosis in 2003, with a daily infection rate of 20,000;

(b) if so, whether the Massive Effort Campaign, a movement of partner organizations committed to fight against AIDS, TB and Malaria has decided to launch the TB Control Report Card on World TB Day;

(c) how the report cards would be useful to tackle this problem;

(d) the steps Government propose to take to solve this serious problem; and

(e) the number of deaths due to TB during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) It is estimated that about 4.5 lakh people die of TB in the country every year. Everyday more then 20,000 people get infected with Tuberculosis bacillus and more than 5,000 develop Tuberculosis.

(b) The massive Efforts Campaign has brought out a TB Control Report Card.

(c) The Report card provides only information on status of coverage of population and percentage of cured infectious TB cases using DOTS. Similar detailed information was already available on the website www.tbcindia.org developed by Central TB Division.

(d) To achieve a cure rate of 85% of new sputum positive cases and to detect at least 70% of such cases, Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) widely known as DOTS, which is a WHO, recommended strategy, is being implemented in the country in a phased manner. More than 600 million population has already been covered under the strategy. It is envisaged to cover 850 million population by 2004 and the entire country by 2005. The Projects Districts have reported a cure rate of more than 80% which means more than 8